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HOLDEN ANNOUNCES \$28 MILLION FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY– Gov. Bob Holden today announced the financing of nearly \$28 million in community water projects through Missouri’s drinking water and wastewater revolving funds. The funds, administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority (EIERA), will help pump dollars and jobs to more than a dozen communities throughout Missouri by upgrading, expanding or building waste water or drinking water treatment facilities.

“These projects will not only improve the quality of drinking water and treatment of wastewater in these communities, but will also improve the ability for future responsible economic growth,” Holden said.

The communities of Bowling Green, Knob Noster, Green City, Marshfield and the Water Supply District #12 of Cass and Bates counties will share almost \$11.3 million for drinking water improvements. The cities of Ava, Bowling Green, Hayti, Savannah, Winona and the Center Creek Water Treatment Facility Board serving Webb City, Carterville and Oronogo will receive \$16.6 million for wastewater improvements.

The State of Missouri has one of the top five State Revolving Fund programs in the country. “Since 1989 these communities saved more than \$350 million in interest, and more than 8,000 jobs were created, thanks to the fund,” Holden said .

“These extremely low-interest loans allow communities to make infrastructure improvements while maintaining affordable user rates,” said Steve Mahfood, director of the Department of Natural Resources.

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“These projects will prepare these communities to handle long-term growth as well as provide more immediate benefits like jobs and dollars coming into local economies,” Holden said.

According to a nationally recognized economic modeling tool (REMI 5.2), the return on investment for each \$1 million committed for new water and wastewater facilities in Missouri is \$19.02 million. Holden’s Jobs Now plan, which he announced last week, seeks to continue the progress Missouri’s economy is making by redirecting existing resources into public infrastructure projects.

The State Revolving Fund is a perpetual loan program operated by the department that provides subsidized, low-interest loans to construct and improve drinking water and sewer systems statewide. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides 80 percent of the subsidy with a 20 percent state match provided through the sale of Water Pollution Control Bonds and EIERA Bonds. This loan closing will finance more than \$27.9 million worth of construction statewide and provide interest savings of more than \$9.2 million to participating communities. The funding allows communities to finance their projects with lower user charge rates when compared to what would have been required using conventional financing.

The Department of Natural Resources will administer the loans. For more information, contact Jerry Smith at 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-1300.